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Next morning when the sun gets hot I, or my man, take the parcel to an open and level place, spread out a water-proof sheet black side up and carefully taking off each sheet of specimens slide it into position on the waterproof, one of which will hold twenty-four sheets of specimens. I put small stones and sticks on the corners and so leave them exposed to the sun. In a very short time they are dry and at once packed away. In the winter I assort them. This plan *in part* I have practiced since 1875, when in northern British Columbia where the weather was so wet that we had rain every day during the month of June.

My plan for phænogams and mosses was only perfected last year, and for phænogams would be of no use without the thick and heavy driers. For the past four years I have been in the habit of placing my sheets of specimens when partly dry on a level surface of dry rock, earth or sand, and then exposing them covered with a single drier to the sun. This worked well in dry weather, but when everything was wet we could do nothing. Last June I was collecting in the Rockies and had showers four or five times a day, so that I could get no dry places for my plants. I had two wire presses, but they were too full, and the air was almost at the point of saturation. One day I spread out my plants in my old way and a thunder storm coming up I hastily covered them with my waterproof sheets. Five minutes after the rain cleared off the waterproof was dry. I now changed my tactics and put the waterproof beneath and I had beaten both weather and locality.

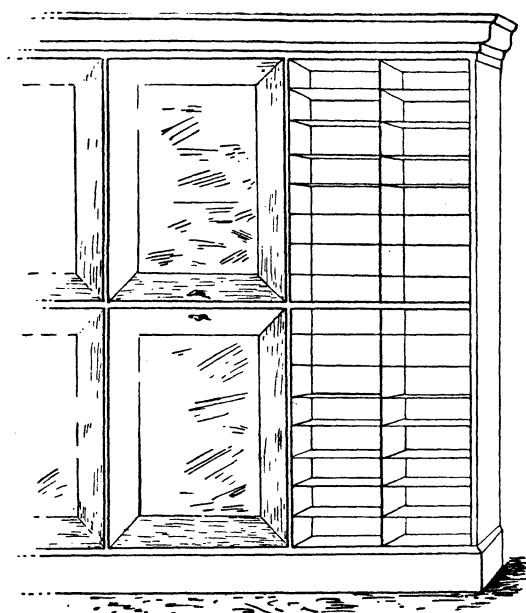
My plan for phænogams in full is this: I carry my driers and half sheets always with me when collecting. My whole outfit is a knife, a basket and a portfolio or press made of two boards of three-ply veneers with straps to fasten them together. I gather my specimens and place them on the half sheets while they are quite fresh, in fact they are put in the press as soon as collected. I keep the collection of each day by itself. Every morning before leaving camp I go over all the specimens *exposed* the day before and label and put away the dry ones, while the others are again exposed.

No matter how wet the weather may be, if I can get three hours' sunshine I can dry my plants without any difficulty. I usually keep my plants one day in the press before exposing them, as I find if they have not had time to wilt they curl in drying.

Let the ground be wet or dry I clear off a space for one or two waterproofs and lay them down with the black side up. As soon as they are warm I unstrap my press, taking a half sheet and drier (drier on top) and place them on the waterproof in rows. Each one holds about twenty-four. I now lay small sticks or stones on the margins or corners and leave them for three or four hours. They are again taken up and put in press until the next morning, when the dry ones are labeled and put away, while the others are again exposed.

By the methods given above I dried over 1,500 sheets last year in a wet region and all my specimens kept their color, although for weeks together it rained every day.—JOHN MACOUN.

Herbarium cases.—I make my cases low enough so that one can easily reach the uppermost specimens without leaving the floor. The pigeon-holes

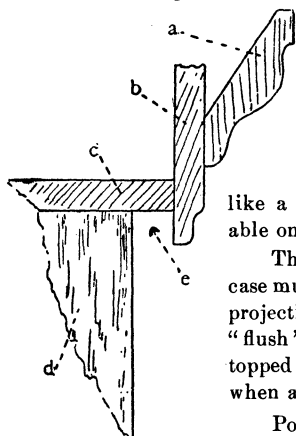


HERBARIUM CASE.

are $12\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide, 4 inches high, and 17 to 18 inches deep; all inside measurements. They are arranged in two series, a lower and an upper, *which are equal*. The lower series begins at from 7 to 8 inches above the floor, and contains eight pigeon-holes; then I have a heavy cross-bar or partition, and above this is the second series.

The doors to my cases are removable, and are of *equal size*. The lower doors cover the lower series of pigeon-holes, and the upper doors cover the upper series. Each door is a little more than two feet wide, and so covers two rows of pigeon-holes.

I use no hinges for fastening the doors. They are made as follows: The



SECTION OF CORNICE.

a, cornice molding; b, door guard; c, top of case; d, side of case; e, groove which receives top of door.

lower end of each lower door fits into a groove in the case, and the upper end is held in place by a simple button. The upper end of each upper door fits into a groove in the case, and its lower end is held by a button. The edges of the doors are properly rabbetted, so as to make them approximately dust proof. A little handle like a "drawer-pull," is attached to each door to enable one to draw it out.

These moveable doors render the work about a large case much more agreeable, as one is not bothered by the projecting doors. I lay these doors (which are paneled "flush" on the inside) on light trestles, or even on flat-topped chairs, and so make a great amount of table room when at work in the herbarium.—CHAS. E. BESSEY.

Poisoning and re-poisoning specimens is a necessity in the herbarium, but with the greatest care insect pests manage to get a foothold somewhere or other every year. It is a mistake to suppose that the most careful poisoning will prevent their ravages. While

I believe in the liberal use of poison, I have long been convinced that it is hopeless to try and prevent the ingress of insects by this means alone, and shall model my herbarium cases after the new ones devoted to Compositæ in the Gray Herbarium, described in the June number. Such a case is as nearly dust-proof as can be expected, and is tight enough so that a cup of chloroform, set on one of the shelves occasionally, will destroy any insects that may be at work. A suggestion of Prof. Brewer to concave the fronts of the shelves *near the right-hand end*, for lifting out the sheets, and to have the shelves one inch shorter than the sheet, at the back, to allow dust to fall to the bottom, obviating the necessity of brushing out each shelf, is worth acting upon.—WILLIAM TRELEASE.

Corydalis aurea and its allies.—In former years Dr. Englemann studied this group attentively, and gave me various notes and sketches; but hardly anything has been published except the few memoranda which I incorporated into the Manual. A careful study of the group now made has on the whole confirmed Dr. Englemann's views, but has led to the admission of one species, which he had concluded to be a mere state of *C. aurea*. It will be seen from the following notes that some points remain upon which further information is needed.

The species are conveniently arranged in two groups, as follows:

1. Hood or saccate tip of outer petals crestless, the back at most carinate: flowers golden yellow.

C. AUREA Willd. Commonly spreading and with slender pedicels: spur of corolla barely half the length of the body, somewhat decurved: capsules pendulous or spreading, terete, torulose when dry: seeds turgid, obtuse at margin, the shining surface obscurely reticulated under a lens.

Extends from Lower Canada to British Columbia and Oregon, north to lat 64°, southwestward to Texas, Arizona, and into adjacent parts of Mexico. But *not* into N. E. Asia or Japan. The plant of the Rocky Mountains and westward commonly has longer spurs. Only southward do we find the marked form which Dr. Englemann was naturally disposed to separate as a species, but at length agreed to call

Var. *OCCIDENTALIS* Engelm. in Gray Man. 62. More erect and cespitose, stouter, often with thickened root which Engelm took to be "subperennial," but probably, like the species, only biennial: flowers rather larger and in a stouter erect raceme, with spur almost as long as the body and commonly ascending: capsules thicker, less torulose, mostly incurved-ascending on short spreading pedicels: seeds less turgid and margins acutish.—*C. montana* Engelm. l. c. and Wood, Bot. 34.

Fendler's New Mexican plant was chiefly the original of this: but it is better represented by C. Wright's no. 1309 from near El Paso, by specimens which I myself collected there in the early spring of 1885, by Pringle's no. 198 of the same year from Chihuahuahua, by specimens collected in Arizona by Palmer in 1865, by Rusby in New Mexico, and by Hall & Harbour's no. 31 from Colorado, which has been referred to *C. curvisiliqua*. These all approach that species; but the pods seem to be terete, are shorter, and the seeds have the slight markings of those of *C. aurea*.

C. CURVISILIQUA Engelm. l. c. Habit of the preceding variety, and with spiciform raceme of rather larger flowers (over half inch long), the spur as long